

**Town of Mansfield
Traffic Authority Meeting
February 23, 2016, 9:00 am
Approved Minutes**

Present – J. Carrington, D. Dilaj, F. Raiola (arrived at 9:30 am), M. Hart, B. LaVoie

Absent - L. Painter, R. Cournoyer

Guest – J. Kaufman (Ag Committee); J. Mullen (Planning)

Approval of 1/26/16 Minutes – Motion made by Dilaj, seconded by LaVoie to approve the minutes of 1/26/16. Passed unanimously.

Business

No.	Item	Action/Disposition
1	Agriculture Signs Throughout Town (J. Kaufman)	<i>K. Paterson representing the Agriculture Committee is requesting agriculture signs be posted in multiple areas (due to an accident between a farm vehicle and a motor vehicle). It was requested that the Agriculture Committee come back to the Traffic Authority with a list of areas and that they be prioritized in order of need. Patenaude submitted e-mail with prices for signs. Paterson distributed list of streets that the Ag Committee would like to see signs on. Ag Committee needs to prioritize. General consensus of Committee was if there are too many signs, they have a tendency not to get read. Traffic data will be examined in these areas. List is too lengthy and needs to be prioritized. Paterson stepped down, Kaufman is now head of Committee. Patenaude to contact Kaufman to prioritize list. Kaufman will provide a prioritized list for the February meeting. J. Kaufman presented the Committee with the prioritized list of signs. Public Works will coordinate installation.</i>
2	Scoping for the University of Connecticut South Campus Development (L. Painter)	<i>L. Painter presented the new scoping notice to the Traffic Authority with an addition to the Fine Arts building and as part of the scoping road closures are involved. Presentation to be done on March 11th with full comments to the project needed by March 19th. Traffic Authority expressed concerns with the road closures and its impact on pedestrian and vehicular traffic on Route 195. Traffic Authority will need to be kept apprised of all impacts throughout the project. Painter reported that the dorm is on hold, so the EIE is much shorter. Painter report it was just released – changes are to include the removal of a dorm, 9 brown houses and 81 parking spaces. Comments due by March 4th. Patenaude will set up a Special Traffic Authority meeting. Leave as old business.</i>

3	Ravine Road (K. Green)	<p>Road is temporarily closed to thru traffic. CL&P has an easement for the power lines. Research to be done for CL&P easement and to check with Town Attorney for abandoning/liability of a Town road. Mr. Drake Smith attended the 5/26/15 meeting with his concerns on keeping the road closed and suggested making the road a One Way Road. The Traffic Authority will bring this up at the next meeting. K. Green expressed there are more issues with her property with the road closed than there were with it open. She is fine with closing it permanently. Waiting to hear back from attorney regarding discontinuing or abandoning roads. E. Dorgan from Ravine Road attended to see what the status was. Plans are to have a neighborhood meeting in the fall to come up with options for the Traffic Authority to discuss. Neighborhood meeting is trying to get scheduled for September 16th to discuss options. K. Green would like to put a gate across with (two 12' sections) and pay for – Town would have key access for any maintenance, etc. LaVoie suggested that the Town do this as it is a "Town" road. "Neighborhood" meeting officially set for October 1st at 6:00 p.m. Anyone that wants to attend is more than welcome. Carrington distributed Power Point presentation which will be amended to include cost estimates. Recommendations will be given to Town Manager which then might require budget adjustments, PZC and/or Council action. Safety will be taken into consideration first, then access vs. cost. A paper poll is considered to be taken upon arrival at meeting with what recommendations or wants would be. K. Green stated that the signs were not consistent on either end of the road and that they should read "No Thru Trucks". She was worried that if an accident occurred with one of her truck and the sign read "No Trucks" that she would be liable. B. LaVoie will remove all signs today. Signs will be put up that say "No Thru Trucks". J. Carrington state that estimated costs to "fix" (guardrails, etc.) the road would be in the \$100,000 range and that it would have to be included in next fiscal year's budget. In the meantime, the road will remain gated and proper signs will be installed. The road is closed, however, abutting land owner (the Green Family) can still use the road to include trucks, oversized trucks, commercial trucks, agricultural equipment, etc. Barricades and concrete blocks are installed. Item will be going to the Council in January with an estimate to fix the road to reopen safely. Item will go to Council first meeting in January. The group discussed alternatives to the proposed two options. The Town Council passed an unanimous motion at the 2/22/16 regular meeting to endorse the compromise option for Ravine Road and for Staff to work with the Town Attorney on a draft proposed</p>
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		agreement or other legal instrument for their consideration. In addition, staff would include a sum of \$110,000 for Ravine Road improvements in the FY2016/17 CIP. Leave as old business.
4	Speed Limits at Storrs Center (F. Raiola)	<i>Raiola stated that the speed limit through Storrs Center was 25mph and was almost hit. The State Traffic Commission has to review speed limits to lower them. Raiola consulted with Cournoyer with his recommendation it was to lower the speed limit to 15 mph. Research will be done to see if 25 mph was approved and do traffic counts. State Traffic Commission needs to approve if speed limit is reduced to 15mph. Waiting until businesses are completed then traffic will be checked. 25 mph speed limit sign is mounted. Leave as old business.</i>
5	Baxter Road Traffic (L. Jones-Bamman)	<i>Letter received from Baxter Road residents with suggestions. A traffic base count will be completed before the new road is installed. Motion made by Raiola, seconded by Painter to add signs (Item 3 from resident's letter) from Renwood Apartments in both directions. Passed unanimously. Signs have been installed. Preliminary studies show less than 2% increase in traffic. More counts will be done when school is in session after spring break. Two more signs will be added (one on each end of Baxter). Study showed traffic volume is identical, however speeds are up. New signs have been installed.</i>
6	Dangerous Intersection Mansfield City/Crane Hill Roads (C. Liu)	<i>Motion made by Dilaj, seconded by Dilaj to study intersection to figure out how to improve before paving. Passed unanimously. Survey is completed. Data needs to be compiled. Leave as old business.</i>
7	E. O. Smith/Bolton Road Extension	<i>Motion made by Dilaj, seconded by LaVoie to contact DOT to determine if turning area is warranted (signal arrow) on Bolton Road Extension. Passed unanimously. Letter needs to be sent to OSTA requesting light with green arrow. Letter has been sent to DOT – not heard back yet. Leave as old business.</i>
8	Building Bus Exit Road Out of the Bus Lot (MMS – C. Morell)	<i>Morrell stated that the tennis courts are to be removed and a playing field added. She requested the road be changed so the exiting buses do not interfere with vehicle traffic. The area that would be most convenient for the new road would be through the dirt parking lot as the buses are heading in that direction to exit the school. Depending on cost it might have to be included as a capital project for fiscal year 16/17. Engineering will take a look at it and advise the Traffic Authority. Hart requested Superintendent Lyman to do a presentation to the BOE. Engineering visited site during am and pm bus times. Average wait times were less than 30 seconds. Engineering will go out a couple more times and then a report will be presented to MMS. Leave as old business.</i>

9	Review Present Handicap Spaces (MMS – C. Morell)	<i>Morrell stated that there are safety concerns during drop off/pick up times and is looking for guidance as to the best possible place for these places to be relocated to. Morrell stated that Accessible Parking is a priority and have a temporary cross walk striped. Painter stated a modification would have to be done thru the PZC. Engineering will come up with a temporary plan to move the handicapped parking and submit to the PZC. Possible solution might be to eliminate spaces on one side of the circle and add spaces on the other side. Vehicles are parking in the handicapped spaces. Easy fix – restriping and add parking. Will be included in #11 report. The plan is to relocate handicapped spaces. Leave as old business.</i>
10	Speed Limit Sign – Vicinity of Liberty Bank	<i>Request will be sent to State to add/move signs. Letter has been sent the State to move and/or install signs. Leave as old business.</i>
11	Traffic Signal at Intersection of Route 32 and 31	<i>Light at the Intersection would not solve the problem as it would be in conflict with the flashing light at the drive-in causing more congestion. A letter will be sent to the State requesting a study to be done to install a traffic light at that intersection. Letter sent to the State to conduct study as both roads are State roads. Leave as old business.</i>
12	Handicapped Parking at Community Center	<i>Hart will propose New Handicapped Spaces at the Community Center for the February meeting. Will be sent to Town Council in March. Patenaude will add to the Special Traffic Authority meeting next week. Leave as old business.</i>

NEW BUSINESS

13	Change of Two Hour to 30 Minute Parking on 195 North of Bolton Road	Motion made by Hart, seconded by LaVoie to make all spaces between Bolton Road and Mansfield Avenue on both sides of the street to 30 minute parking. Leave as old business.
14	Intersection of Routes 275 and 32	State made recommendations that nothing was needed. A report will be sent to the Town Council. Leave as old business.

Motion made by Dilaj to adjourn, seconded by LaVoie. Passed unanimously. Adjournment of the meeting at 9:42 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Patenaude
Public Works Specialist